

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ WAIVER REQUEST
☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST

DATE: 5/28/2021
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Laurie White
Office: Judge, Criminal District Court, Section A
Parish: ORLEANS
Election Date: 11/3/2020
Level of Office: Major

CR
G
10445 Ridgley Road
Baton Rouge LA
70809-3225

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 10-G
Original Due Date: 11/25/2020
Date Filed: 12/7/2020
Activity Receipts: \$6,561.00
Expenditures: \$2,664.69
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$317,243.13

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1,200
Days Late: 12
Late Fee Order Received: 1/9/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 1/29/2021
Waiver Request Received: 1/19/2021
Additional Information Requested:
- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Waiver request was submitted by the candidate and states that she personally financed about 85% of her campaign expenses. She said last year presented unique challenges; campaigning online and limited in person interaction with her accountant. Due to the difficulties presented by Covid -19 the required financial disclosure form was inadvertently filed 12 days late. She said as soon as they received the delinquency notice they filed the report. She included a statement from her accountant which says that she understood that the 10-G report was for the candidates that were participating in the General Election and did not realize that it was required by all candidates.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: Yes
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

January 19, 2021

Melissa Horn
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: \$1200 Late fee assessment for November 3, 2020 Election
10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 12 days late

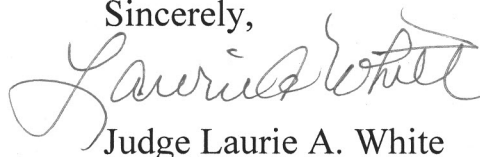
Dear Ms. Horn:

I received the letter regarding my campaign's assessment of a late filing of the required "10-G" financial disclosure form due on November 25, 2020 and filed 12 days late on December 7, 2020.

I have served the public since 2008 and have personally financed about 85% of my campaign expenses, which has climbed into the hundreds of thousands. Campaigning for office this past year presented unique challenges: campaigning online, conducting matters virtually, and extremely limited in-person interaction with everyone, especially never being able to have an in-person meeting with my accountant, Christi Nielsen. Due to the difficulties presented by COVID-19, the required financial disclosure form was inadvertently filed twelve days late, and while a serious oversight, it was amid a chaotic time. The error was corrected as soon as it was realized. My accountant is both incredibly diligent and conscientious at filing deadlines and provided my campaign with a letter detailing the oversight, which is attached. Additionally, Ms. Nielsen's father, who was ill, passed away during the campaign. Her father's passing monopolized her time and concern for much of the campaign.

As the situation regarding the late filing was remedied quickly, and the required reports were provided promptly upon realization of the error, I would request that this fee be waived. This request is made considering the unique circumstances we have all found ourselves in the past few months, as well as the specific reasons outlined above. I very much appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie A. White".

Judge Laurie A. White

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
JAN 21 '21 PM1:22

December 20, 2020

Dear Judge Laurie White,

First of all, I want to sincerely apologize for my embarrassing oversight for not understanding that the "10-G" report was to be filed on November 25th for your campaign. Upon receiving the email dated 12/6/20 with the attached Notice of Delinquency letter from the Board of Ethics, I found myself to be quite surprised in receiving such notice.

I had reviewed the reporting schedule numerous times in an effort to plan and organize all remaining campaign documentation for required reporting deadlines. As you may recall, I sent an email to you on 10/26/20 that included a draft of the "10-P" report as well as including an attached spreadsheet labeled "Supplemental" that listed the outstanding contributions and expenditures that were left to be reported. As I noted in that email the last remaining report was the Supplemental report per my understanding. My understanding and assumption of the scheduling deadlines was that the "10-G" report was for the candidates that were participating in the General Election on December 5, 2020. As the "10-G" is in short for the named report: "10th day prior to general."

After reading the "Notice of Delinquency" letter, I returned to the reporting schedule to take another look at where I missed the important information. At the far right of the schedule within the line item for filing the "10-G" report, states "MUST BE FILED BY ALL CANDIDATES & PACs SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING IN PRIMARY ELECTION". I have no real explanation as to how I missed this notation, but just that I had it in my mind as an assumption on my part that this was only in regards to the candidates participating in the General Election not the Primary Election.

I sincerely regret this complete oversight on my part as you have entrusted in me the care and responsibility to file your campaign reports accurately and in a timely manner. There has not been a past issue in my handling of such reporting so I hope that the Board of Ethics can consider this in review of your campaign reporting. I ask that you attach my letter along with your waiver request for the Boards' consideration as well.

Sincerely,

Christi Nielsen



Laurie A. White, Judge

Criminal District Court

Parish of Orleans

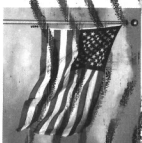
Section A

2700 Tulane Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

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19 JAN 2021 PM 1 L



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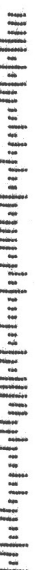
Louisiana Board of Ethics

P.O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA

70821

70821-4368



January 27, 2021

Angela Newsom
Director, Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: \$1200 Late fee assessment for November 3, 2020 Election
10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 12 days late

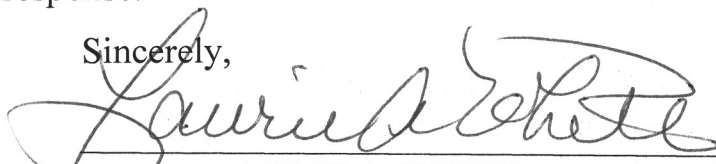
Dear Ms. Newsom:

I received the letter regarding my campaign's assessment of a late filing of the required "10-G" financial disclosure form due on November 25, 2020 and filed 12 days late on December 7, 2020. A response was mailed on January 12, 2021 to Melissa Horn, but I would also like to direct a response to Angela Newsom, the Director of Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division.

I have served the public since 2008 and have personally financed about 85% of my campaign expenses, which has climbed into the hundreds of thousands. Campaigning for office this past year presented unique challenges: campaigning online, conducting matters virtually, and extremely limited in-person interaction with everyone, especially never being able to have an in-person meeting with my accountant, Christi Nielsen. Due to the difficulties presented by COVID-19, the required financial disclosure form was inadvertently filed twelve days late, and while a serious oversight, it was amid a chaotic time. The error was corrected as soon as it was realized. My accountant is both incredibly diligent and conscientious at filing deadlines and provided my campaign with a letter detailing the oversight, which is attached. Additionally, Ms. Nielsen's father, who was ill, passed away during the campaign. Her father's passing monopolized her time and concern for much of the campaign.

As the situation regarding the late filing was remedied quickly, and the required reports were provided promptly upon realization of the error, I would request that this fee be waived. This request is made considering the unique circumstances we have all found ourselves in the past few months, as well as the specific reasons outlined above. I very much appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


JUDGE LAURIE A. WHITE

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
JAN 29 '21 PM 1:41



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70200090000073035554

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 6, 2021

Thomas M. Wilson
Laurie White Campaign Fund
81151 Hwy. 1080
Folsom, LA 70437

RE: Late fee assessment for November 3, 2020 Election
10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 12 days late

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of **\$1,200** payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. **Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.**

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal **the assessment** directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment. If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not **pay or dispute** the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.

Sincerely,

Melissa Horn

STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
acting in its capacity as the
SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

In Re: Laurie White
November 3, 2020 Election

LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Laurie White, in her capacity as a candidate for Judge, Criminal District Court, Section A in the November 3, 2020 election, and her committee's chairperson, Thomas M. Wilson were required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.


WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

WHEREAS, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4B(5), Laurie White was required to file a 10th Day Prior to General Report (10-G) by November 25, 2020. Laurie White filed the report on December 7, 2020 and was 12 days late.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(i) provides that an automatic late fee of \$100 per day (not to exceed \$2,500) be assessed against Laurie White, and her committee's chairperson, Thomas M. Wilson for this late filing.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that a late fee of \$1,200 is assessed against Laurie White, and her committee's chairperson, Thomas M. Wilson for failure to timely file a 10-G campaign finance disclosure report.

ORDER signed on the 6th day of January 2021 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Angela Newsom, Director
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division

December 20, 2020

Dear Judge Laurie White,

First of all, I want to sincerely apologize for my embarrassing oversight for not understanding that the "10-G" report was to be filed on November 25th for your campaign. Upon receiving the email dated 12/6/20 with the attached Notice of Delinquency letter from the Board of Ethics, I found myself to be quite surprised in receiving such notice.

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Sincerely,

Christi Nielsen



Laurie A. White, Judge
Criminal District Court
Parish of Orleans
Section A

2700 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

27 JUL 2001 PM 2:11



Attn: Angela Newsom
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4308
Baton Rouge, LA.

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